reclaimed from the sea, if so, how much and at what cost; and

(d) by when the work is likely to be awarded?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Norms for levying Taxes on Air-Taxes

2460. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of aircraft that have so far been granted licence to fly as Air Taxies;

(b) whether any specific routes have been fixed for each Air Taxi;

(c) whether any taxes are levied on such air taxies; and

(d) if so, what are the norms adopted for the levy on these taxies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) 30 aircraft have been permitted to operate air taxi serivces in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Planes to be purchased by Indian Airlines

2461. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of planes which are likely to be purchased by Indian Airlines in the near future;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines do not have enough pilots to run these new aircrafts; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Indian Airlines has plans to acquire twelve A-320 aircraft during 1993 and 1994.

(b) and (c) Training will be accelerated to meet the requirements of more pilots on A-320 aircraft.

Identification of baggage by the passengers while boarding Indian Airlines flights

2462. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air passengers deposit their bagges with the airlines authorities when they check in at the ticket counters;

(b) whether these baggages remained in the custody of the airlines authorities till they are loaded in the aircraft;

(c) if so, what are the reasons that the airlines authorities again ask the passengers to identify their baggages before loading which causes unnecessary delay in the departure of aircraft; and

(d) whether it is a fact that this procedure is not followed at foreign airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This is done to ensure that no baggage whose owner is not actually travelling is loaded into the aircraft.

(d) Different countries have adopted different methods.